

the services in the four corners of the world, are directing their attention to this conference and are looking to it to produce a charter which will be their guarantee of security for all time to come. And they are hoping by the application of the charter that the word "war" will be removed from all languages and that the charter will assist in obtaining social security for all.

I am sure that the people of Canada generally will commend this parliament for cutting short the preliminaries and getting down immediately to the important business of the session. With this thought in mind, I have decided to make my remarks in presenting this motion very brief. I therefore move:

That the following address be presented to His Excellency the Governor General of Canada:

To His Excellency Major-General the Right Honourable the Earl of Athlone, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter, a member of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Knight Grand Cross of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, Grand Master of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Victorian Order, Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, one of His Majesty's Personal Aides-de-Camp, Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of the Dominion of Canada.

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, His Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada, in parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Excellency for the gracious speech which Your Excellency has addressed to both houses of parliament.

Mr. J. A. LAPOINTE (Matapedia-Matane): Mr. Speaker, in order to expedite this debate, and in accordance with the government's desire to carry on with the work ahead, I shall not make a speech at the moment. I must, however, express my happiness at having been chosen to second this motion, and I want to thank the Prime Minister (Mr. Mackenzie King) for the honour which he has extended to me. I also consider it a great privilege and honour to my constituency, which is the finest in Canada, if I can believe what was told me by the acting leader of the opposition in this house in a very nice way.

In selecting the hon. member for London (Mr. Johnston) and myself to move and second the address in reply to the speech from the throne, the government no doubt had in mind the paying of a tribute not only to our armed forces, some of whom now are fighting so gallantly on German soil, but to the veterans of the last war; and therefore, Mr. Speaker it gives me great pleasure to second the motion.

On motion of Mr. Lapointe (Matapedia-Matane) the debate was adjourned.

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the house will allow me, as an old offender, to congratulate the mover and the seconder on the brevity of their speeches.

THE MINISTRY

APPOINTMENT OF HON. C. W. G. GIBSON AS MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE FOR AIR— PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Prime Minister): While I am on my feet perhaps I may refer to one other matter of routine. It is simply to make mention of a change in the ministry which has taken place since we last assembled here, under which the Hon. Colin Gibson, former Minister of National Revenue, has been appointed Minister of National Defence for Air to fill the position vacated by Hon. C. G. Power.

Mr. GORDON GRAYDON (Leader of the Opposition): May I ask the Prime Minister to complete his explanation with respect to the change in ministers, including parliamentary assistants? I ask him to do so because I should like to know who is looking after the Department of National Revenue, and also whether there has been any permanent change as regards the parliamentary assistant moving from the Department of Finance to the Department of National Defence. Is he assuming the new position on an acting basis?

Mr. MACKENZIE KING: As regards the Department of National Revenue, the Hon. Mr. MacKinnon is acting minister at the present time. It is the customary procedure, when there is not a minister, to have some other member of the government act until such time as an appointment is made. The appointment will be made before very long.

In regard to the parliamentary assistants, the hon. member for Queens (Mr. Macmillan), who is not in the house to-day, wrote to me a day or two ago to the effect that, being at the present time acting principal of McGill university, he had very heavy responsibilities and felt that perhaps he should not try to continue as parliamentary assistant to the Minister of National Defence for Air. He also thought that he should tender his resignation so as to leave the minister free to make whatever choice he might wish. I replied to the hon. member that I hoped he would not think of tendering his resignation at the moment. I said that if he could be here part of the time it would be of assistance, and I also informed him that, having spoken to my colleague the Minister of National Defence for Air about a